

Thought for the Day before Worship

As we prepare our hearts and minds to hear the Good News of Christ's resurrection, keep us mindful of all those ways you have brought new life into the midst of our own suffering and dying, bringing confidence in your saving power both in this world and in the world to come. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Prelude *"An Easter Celebration"* (Joel Raney)

Welcome and Announcements

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

The world is shaken, the stone rolled away, the tomb empty! Christ is risen!

The power of God is revealed; death is defeated, and life is affirmed.

Fear is vanquished, and joy reborn!

Christ is risen indeed!

Nothing remains the same, for it is Easter Day!

Lift up your hearts and voices, and praise the name of Jesus, our risen Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Let us together Worship our God with joy and thanksgiving!!

*Hymn #288 *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"* (Easter Hymn)

CONTACTS

Phone 859-431-1818
 Email stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Website www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

PROGRAM

Coffee Fellowship Time
 Worship
 Infant, Toddler, Preschool & School Age Child Care

LOCATION

Fellowship Hall (L.L.)
 Sanctuary
 South Hallway

TIME

9:00 a.m.
 10:00 a.m.
 9:30 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

POSITION

Designated Pastor
 Pastor of Visitation
 Director Of Music/Organist
 Associate Director of Music
 Office Administrator
 Director of Communication & Outreach
 Financial Administrator

PERSON

J. Martin Westermeyer
 John Robson
 Michael Sullivan
 Dobin Park
 Kelli Taylor
 Kyle Taylor
 Chris Baker

CONTACT

Shaman4@zoomtown.com
 Jmarrobson@gmail.com
 Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Pianist0587@gmail.com
 Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org

CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON

Kyle Taylor
 David Stamm
 Pat Goins
 Vickie Kennedy

POSITION

Church President
 Church Vice President
 Church Secretary
 Church Treasurer

CONTACT

859-394-5256
 859-322-2426
 859-250-2830
 859-653-2630 text or call

Church Office Hours

Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Tuesday Closed
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Thursday Closed
 Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Vickie Grey Kennedy

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Mike Hanson, Darlene Knepshield & Shirley Rice

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, March 31: 8:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Easter Sunday

Monday, April 1: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, April 2: 6:30 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Thursday, April 4: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 6: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, April 7: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

We bless you, Holy God, as you bless us with this new day. Help us to lay down our burdens, the fears that hold us back from doing the hard work of being your servants in this world. Guide our hearts so that our faith will grow, helped along rather than nagged by the doubts and fears we all experience. Give comfort to those lost in their doubts now and show them the path that leads to a life of joy and comfort in your presence.

God, we are people full of doubts, worries, and concerns. We constantly see evidence that seductively testifies against the salvation that Christ brought into this world. The violence and death we witness on a daily basis leave us doubtful that a peaceable kingdom can ever come to pass. Forgive us for our doubts, Holy God, and help us to use those doubts to deepen our faith. We know that nothing good in this world will come to pass unless we put aside our fears and act bravely, testifying to the love and grace you came to bring us all. Thank you for our doubts, God, and help us use them to deepen our faith and deepen our commitment to being your servants in this world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! In the presence of the risen Christ we are changed. By the power of forgiveness, we are raised from guilt and shame to freedom and joy. The old life dissolves in the new; the old world moves toward the new creation God has shown to be possible in Christ. Thanks and praise be to God for the miracle of Easter! Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

From the History of the New Testament: Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Childrens Chat

Vickie Grey Kennedy

From the Letters of Paul: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed

Anthem

"Resurrection Joy"

(arr. Mary McDonald)

Thine is the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.

Now let the heav'ns be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
the world resound in triumph,
And all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Hearts to heav'n and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise.
He, who on the cross as savior
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken,
Christ from death to life is born;
glorious life, and life immortal,
on this resurrection morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer
by His mighty enterprise:
we with Him to life eternal
by His resurrection rise!
Alleluia! Amen!

From the Gospels: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen

Hearing Assistance

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

Pastoral Care Notice

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor Marty or Pastor John Robson to contact you.

In Our Prayers

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Ernie Brady Sr., Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Henry Marksberry, Bill Seibert, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts & Betty Webster

Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members.

Those in assisted living and nursing homes.

Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.
Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Pastor of Visitation John Robson

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Betty Webster. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Betty as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Betty Webster
305 Taylor Street Room 10A
Butler, KY 41006

Children's Activity Bags

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

Online Video Worship Services Return

After a slight pause, St. John's online video worship services have returned. You can view the services through our church website www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church's name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Please be patient as we work out any technical issues that may arise. Hope you enjoy the services!

EASTER FLOWERS 2024

In Loving Memory of...

Bob & Bobby Bolmer by Bette Bolmer
Sammy Strong by Mike & Barb Boyers
Roger Milner by Mike & Barb Boyers
Robert and Sally Walters by their Children
Geoff Goins by Dan & Pat Goins
Beloved Husband Dan Grey by Flo Grey
Our Parents-Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mauser and Mr. & Mrs. Frank Grey by Flo Grey
Joan and Roger Haas by Laura Haas & Jim Breyer
My Parents and My Son by Chuck Hawkins
Our Dads, Dan and Jack by Vickie Grey Kennedy
Shannon Lawrence by Karen Kiefer
Our Loved Ones by Jan & Darlene Knepshield
Bruce Shay by Julie Thompson Ollier
Roy Rice by Shirley Rice & Family
Dennis Schofield by Karen Schofield
Lisa Dyan Stamm by David & Diana Stamm
Jason Stern by His Mother, June Stern
Barbara and Tom Twehues by Julie & Steve Twehues
Carol and Arlie Ellis by Julie & Steve Twehues
Betty Westermeyer by Pastor Marty Westermeyer

In Honor of...

Michael Sullivan, Our Organist by Judy Adams
Our Moms, Flo and Dee by Vickie Grey Kennedy
All UCC Church Members by the Latham's
Betty Webster by Elizabeth & John Robson
Joan Berkemeyer by Elizabeth & John Robson

In Celebration of Easter...

Given by Julie Croley
Given by Bonnie Hoffmann
Given by Chuck Shay, Jr.

wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

Three Gifts of Easter

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith: An Easter Affirmation**

We are an Easter-faith people.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

**As a spring festival coinciding with the earth's re-birth,
As a revelation in scripture of God's intentions,
As a central meaning of human existence.
Yet, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:
As a puzzle, an intriguing mystery,
As contrary to the apparent facts of life and death,
As impossible to have happened, much less to happen still.
Still, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:
As the ways of God which are beyond our ways,
As a deeper, different reality than we imagine,
As a possible reality.**

Thus, we are Easter-filled people:

**Living the hope of new life,
Expecting signs of renewal in ourselves and others,
Believing that the mystery of God is a mystery of forgiving love.
In joy, with power, through faith,
we are becoming God's Easter people.
Thanks be to God!! Amen.**

***Hymn #317**

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"
(vs. 1 & 2)

(Diademata)

**Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Response

Sing Twice

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!

Offertory Invitation

Our generous offerings are but one response to the good news of Easter. They are appropriate expressions of thanks to God. They bear witness to the degree of our commitment. But no offering is a substitute for personal faithfulness to God, who calls us to be healers, witnesses, and lovers of the world's people, whom Christ came to save.

Offertory

"Risen Indeed"

(Allen Pote)

Christ is risen, Christ is risen, alleluia!
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, he is risen.
Lift up your voices sing alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen indeed, He is risen from the dead.
He is alive, he is alive alleluia!
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, he is risen!
Lift up your voices, sing alleluia!
He died for us, our sinful souls to save.
Now he is risen from the grave.

The tomb stands empty, the stone was rolled away.
Darkness has vanished, the night has turned to day.
Jesus will meet us when our death is near.
He gives us hope eternal! We need not fear!
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, he is risen.
Lift up your voices, sing alleluia!
Christ is risen, is risen indeed.
Christ is risen, alleluia!

SHARING THE UPPER ROOM

"Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together, listening to God and to each other." (The Upper Room) Please consider joining us on the last Saturday of each month for a spiritual discussion group. We will share scripture, meditation, prayer, and conversation regarding how God works within us and around us. Discussion will center on how we live our lives, and how we hear and respond to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We'll use *The Upper Room* as our resource because this is easily available to us through our church. Zerox copies of the meditation and the discussion questions will be available to pick up the Sunday before each session. We'll begin with one gathering a month and increase our time together if those involved feel that calling. Over time we'll consider using other suggested resources specific for small groups and spiritual growth.

We'll meet at St. John's UCC in Newport, the last Saturday of each month, from 10:00 am–11:00 am, in the church chapel area (near the church parlor).

All are welcome! Bring a friend. No reservations required. We hope to see you on April 27. We'll be using the meditation from Wednesday April 24, "God Provides Strength". When I focus on God, I will find renewed strength. Reading from Hebrews 12:1-11.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

***MAY YOU HAVE A BLESSED EASTER.
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US THIS MORNING
AND WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY
AT 10:00 A.M. FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP.***



THANK YOU

We thank our guest instrumentalists this morning for helping to make our Easter celebration joyous.

Trumpet: Zige Huang
Trumpet: Logan Pronk

Trombone: Gabriel Gilliland
Trombone: Frank Schmitt

Percussion: Zhongzihan Li

Pianist: Sujin Kim

THANK YOU

We are grateful for a gift from the Hanson memorial fund for funding our guest instrumentalists this morning. The gift is in honor of Howard and Ruth Hanson. Howard and Ruth were longtime faithful members of St. John's.

THANK YOU

Thank you to our Leadership Team for providing a delicious Easter breakfast this morning!

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31ST

April 5th: Chase Coppage & Diana Stamm

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, April 10th

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided
Drinks and dessert provided

*Doxology

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks, God, for all the gifts you have given us, especially the gift of doubt. May our doubts be transformed into faith and zealous service in this world. Thank you for the opportunity doubt gives us to deepen our spiritual walk and recommit ourselves to being your witnesses and servants to the world around us. Help us, Holy One, to use our gifts wisely in this world, so that we may bring peace where there is conflict, love where there is hatred, and joy where there is despair. It is in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

Sing Twice

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and
shared, life for the world. Let us be wine,
love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord. _____

Celebration of Holy Communion

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

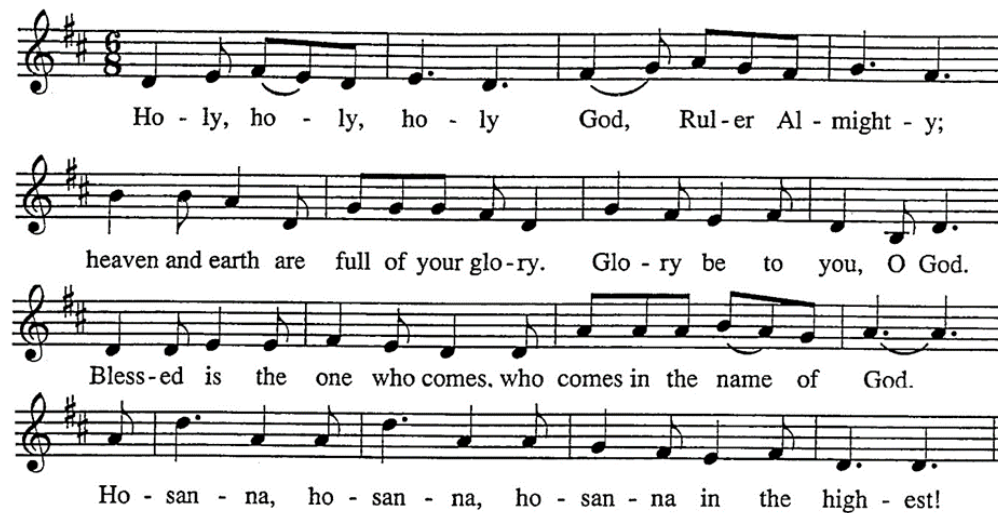
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is meet, right and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to you Almighty God. . . . Therefore, with you people in all ages and the whole company of heaven we join in the song of unending praise, singing:

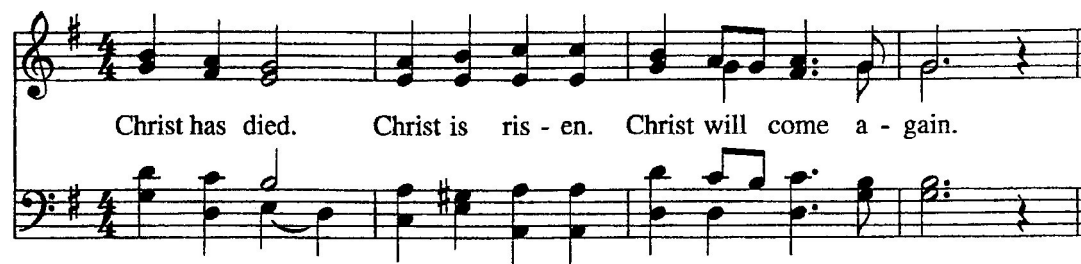
Sanctus Hymn (sung)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Rul-er Al - might - y;
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo - ry be to you, O God.
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Consecration of Elements

Acclamation of Faith (sung)



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to eat at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

*Hymn #289

"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"

(Hymn to Joy)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

"Because He Lives"

(Mary McDonald)

**Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because He lives!**

Postlude

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

(arr. Lloyd Larson)

WELCOME!

Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!

We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God's Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ.

May you know His grace and peace today!

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



Flowers in church today are provided by our members and friends. Tulips and Lilies may be taken home by their owners after the Easter Service.

Open flower dates are April 21st & 28th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.